



Placemaking in Stone:
A Geo-Coded Sidewalk Survey for a Livable City
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Placemaking in Stone:
A Geo-Coded Sidewalk Survey for a Livable City
funded by NYS Certified Local Government Program/OPRHP
&
the City of Kingston, Honorable Shayne Gallo, Mayor

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Fair
Street
Historic
District

Stockade
Historic
District

Rondout
Historic
District

Chestnut
Street
Historic
District

Broadway Heritage Corridor

A NYS Certified Local Government grant was secured to survey sidewalks in the City's Historic Districts and the Broadway Corridor that links Midtown with the Rondout Waterfront.

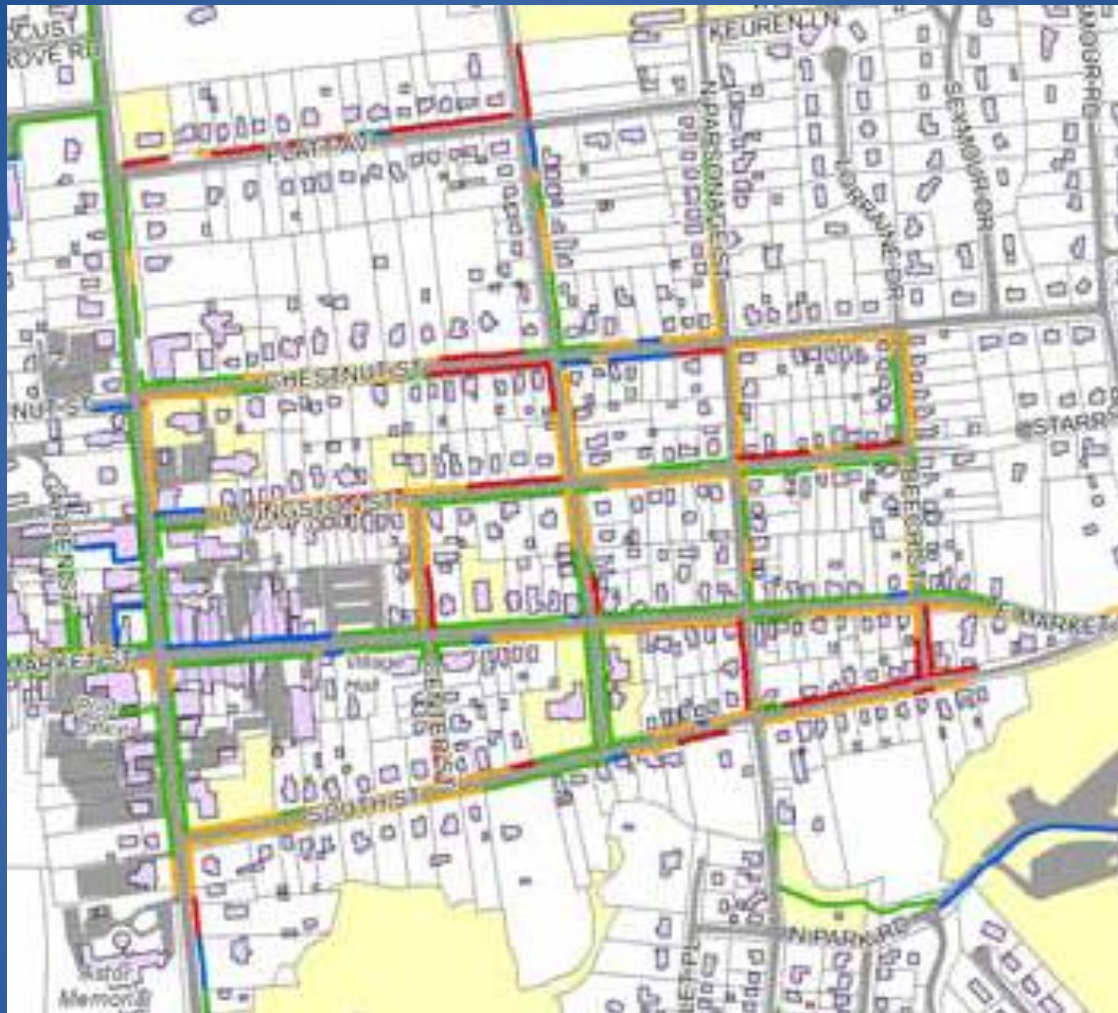


The Trimble GPS Pack

Ulster County Information Services made Geographical Positioning System (GPS) units available for the survey, helped design the data collection, and produced data reports to guide final project recommendations to the City.



Members of Kingston's Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission and community volunteers were trained to use the GPS units to map sidewalk types and conditions.



Data collected will support the development of restoration projects, grant applications and interpretive planning.



GPS technology could similarly be used to survey cemeteries, gardens and other cultural landscapes.



Kingston Stockade



19th-Century Industry in the Rondout

Bluestone – A Major Kingston Industry 1830 - 1900



Simeon & William B. Fitch Bluestone Company



Bluestone had a great variety of applications – hitching posts, gate posts, coach steps, animal troughs, grinding stones, tombstones....

Building and construction materials drove the growth of the Bluestone industry.



Beyond sidewalks that help define Kingston's historic character today, the Bluestone Industry showcases Kingston's dynamic role in America's Industrial Revolution.



Quarried in Ulster County and ferried to Rondout along the D&H Canal, Bluestone was shipped all over the world from Kingston, providing the cornerstone for the Brooklyn Bridge...



...the 25' x 16' entrance stone to William K Vanderbilt's Fifth Avenue *Petit Chateau*, home of the famous "400" ballroom...



... and sidewalks everywhere, including in *Belle Epoque* New York City and in San Francisco following the 1906 earthquake.

**Friends
of Historic
Kingston**



To learn more about Bluestone in Kingston and Ulster County, visit Friends of Historic Kingston online

<http://www.fohk.org/welcome/preservation/bluestone/>

Be sure to take their self-guided Bluestone Tour!

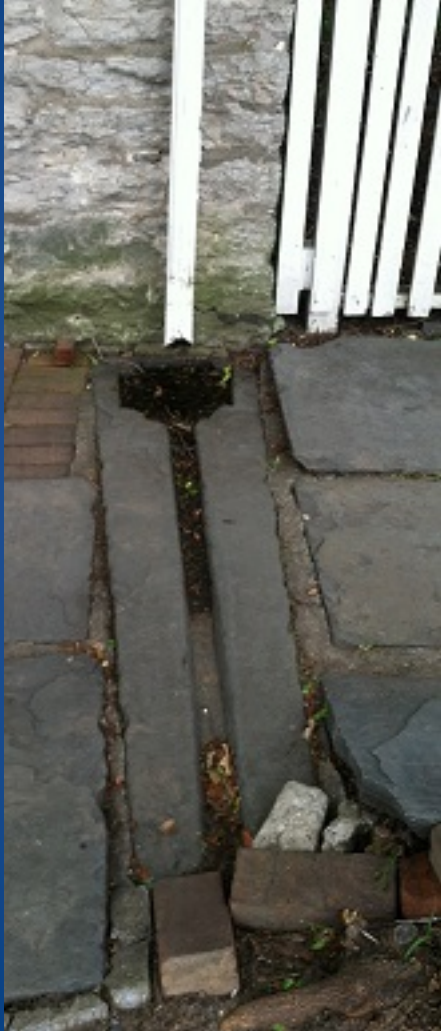


Of the 11.67 miles of sidewalk in the survey areas, 5.66 miles remains Bluestone today, some of it more than 150 years old.



Restoring and showcasing the Bluestone sidewalks and “amenities” that are Kingston’s heritage will enhance the City’s picturesque character ...

... and help residents take pride in their properties
and in their City's history.



AMENITIES LOGGED:

- 60 bluestone entry stones (some 8' to 10' in length)
- 67 bluestone and 12 limestone walls (of varying height)
- 16 drainage grooves
- 15 period interior buffer strips
- 11 coach steps
- 5 gate posts
- 2 decorative flags
- 1 grooved stone
- 126 large flags



Senate House, Kingston, NY 1885

Kingston's Four Corners

FRANZ ROGGEN HOUSE

Crown Street, Kingston

Built: 1752

Use: Private residence occupied by the Roggen family

Today: Serves as office building

MATTHEWIS PERSEN HOUSE

John Street, Kingston

Built: 1752

Use: Private residence occupied by the Persen family

Today: Museum owned by the county

KINGSTON ACADEMY

Crown Street, Kingston

Built: 1774 (burned 1777)

Use: Served as a school for languages, math and the arts

Today: First floor being renovated by Gerald Celente; second floor remains a radio station

JANSEN HOUSE

Crown Street, Kingston

Built: Mid-1600s

Use: Private residence and doctor's office for the Jansen family

Today: Home to Petalos Floral Design and Permanent Bouquet Art Gallery

Location of
Four Corners



Kingston's 18th-Century "Four Corners"



Vansteenburgh House c.1750





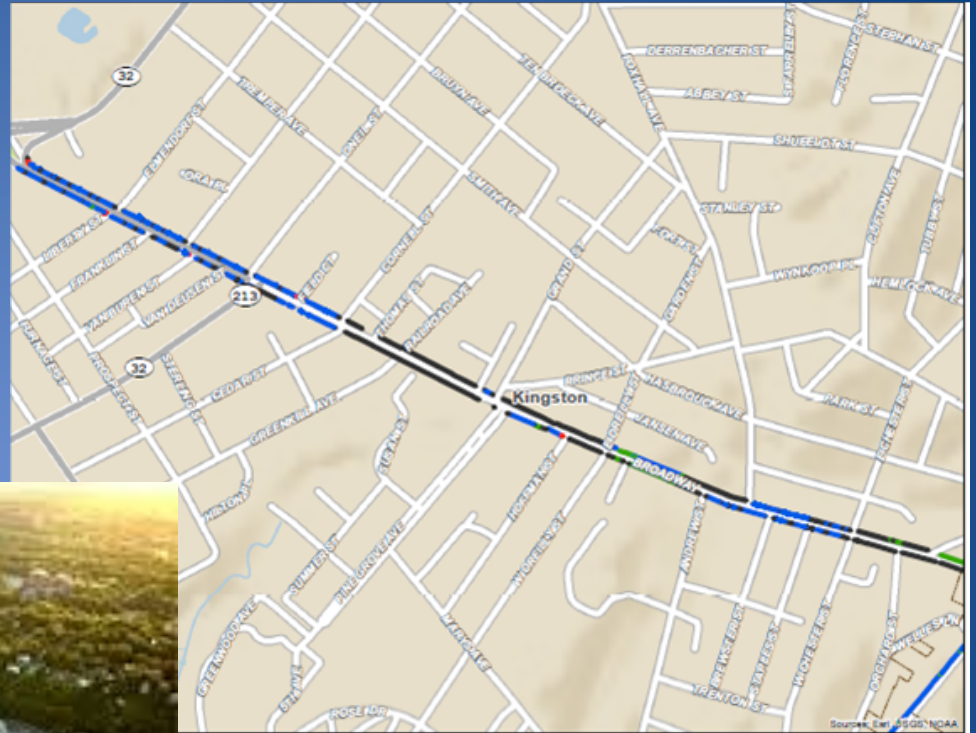
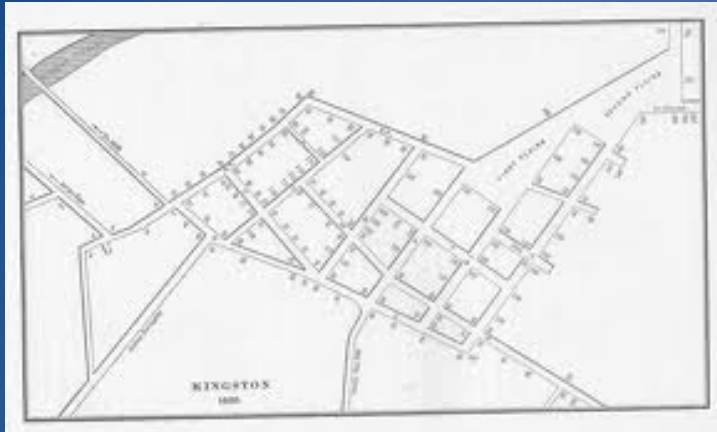
Culture & Heritage: Economic Building Blocks

Putting Preservation “on the map”

Bluestone Survey Objectives:

- Gather information to support grant applications for sidewalk restoration and improvement.
- Raise awareness about the value of Kingston's bluestone to help property owners make better choices.
- Build a walkable community that is marketable to new and relocating businesses and homebuyers.







City of Kingston Bluestone Bank



Rondout Historic District



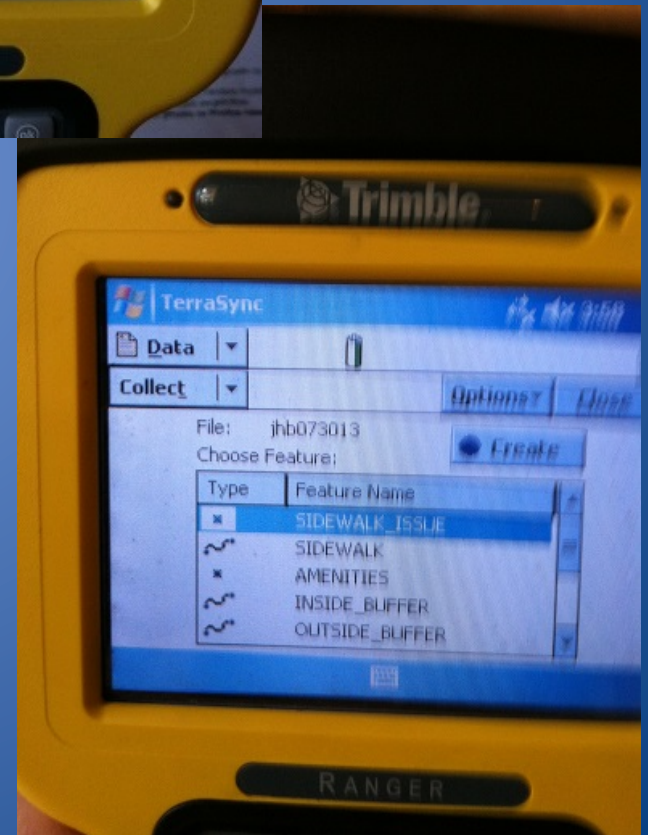
**We last left our intrepid volunteers
suited up to take the field.**

A “DATA DICTIONARY” had been developed and loaded into the GPS handsets to guide data collection step by step...



**The Trimble
GPS Handset**

...volunteers were trained to take measurements, log “LINES”, “POINTS”, MATERIALS, CONDITION, “AMENITIES” and “ISSUES, and capture details in GPS correlated photographs.





POINT – data for a single sidewalk issue, amenity, curb detail, etc.

LINE – a linear segment (Sidewalk, Inside Buffer, Outside Buffer).



A traditional SIDEWALK may have a width of sidewalk flanked by an outside BUFFER and CURB on the street side and an inside buffer and/or APRON on the inside.

Materials



SIDEWALKS and BUFFERS may be made of Bluestone, brick, pavers, asphalt, concrete...



...grass, gravel,
Bluestone
cobblestones...



Whether EDGES and SURFACES are hand split along natural rock faults or machine cut helps determine the historic or modern period when bluestone flags were first installed .

CONDITION varies widely



- **GOOD- Unlikely to hinder mobility (including wheel chairs, canes, strollers....**

- **FAIR - Uneven, distressed surface; may hinder mobility or lead to injury.**





- **POOR– Hinders mobility of average pedestrian. Deep cracking, buckling; significant vegetation overgrowth, debris.**

ISSUES were noted:

Cracked, broken, delaminated...



Lifted...





OBSTRUCTIONS are permanent (signs, poles, etc.)

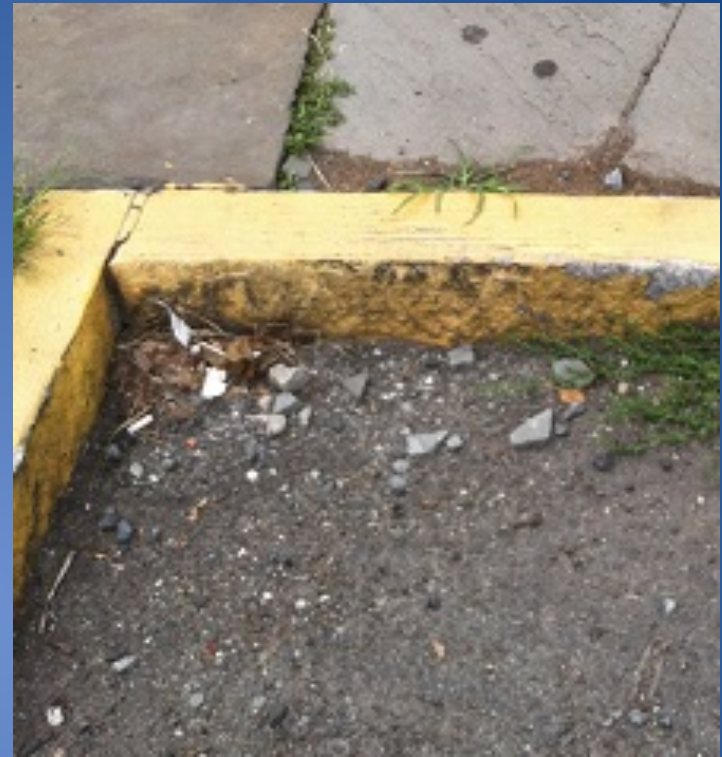
CLEARANCE is temporary (such as the bushes that you see here.)



COLOR: Bluestone can be Blue/Grey, Purple, Brown, Yellow.

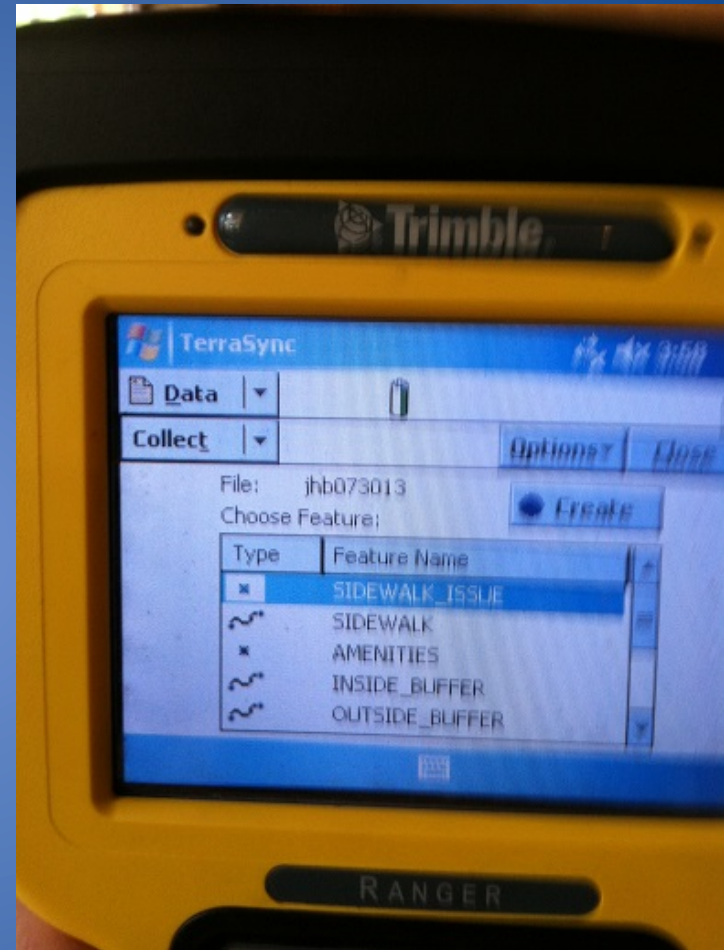


JOINTS between bluestone flags may be: No Gap, Mortared Infill, Vegetation, Asphalt, Gravel, a Mix or “Other”.



CURBS may be
Belgian Block (Granite)
Concrete
Bluestone...

All was logged
into the format
that we had
developed for the
GPS handsets...



crunched into data sets...

Total Sidewalks	61602.66ft	11.67mi	
Condition	Feet	Miles	%
Excellent	5,589.30	1.06	9%
Good	25,470.71	4.82	41%
Fair	17,087.71	3.24	28%
Poor	12,364.12	2.34	20%
Blank	1,090.82	0.21	2%
Total	61,602.66	11.67	100%

Material	Feet	Miles	%
Asphalt	6,160.70	1.17	10%
Bluestone	29,887.53	5.66	49%
Brick	1,605.82	0.30	3%
Concrete	20,142.93	3.81	33%
No Sidewalk	2,542.60	0.48	4%
Pavers	959.82	0.18	2%
Unknown	274.73	0.05	0%
Blank	28.53	0.01	0%
Total	61,602.66	11.67	100%

...and visualized in maps for future use.





Flags inventoried in Bluestone Bank

Recommendations

1. Recognize the importance of Kingston's bluestone sidewalks, as well as the City's preeminent place in the history of the bluestone industry, as well as the importance of other historic infrastructure materials to the City's character and heritage. Ensure that Kingston's historic materials are highlighted and protected in way finding projects, and that these projects are planned with the potential of historic materials for placemaking central to the process.
2. Develop and implement a prioritized program to restore, rehabilitate, and preserve bluestone sidewalks and resources.
3. Develop and enforce regulations regarding the care and preservation of bluestone by property owners and developers; require building permits and review by the City's Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission for sidewalk repair and construction.

Recommendations, continued

4. Develop a public education program to raise awareness of the importance of Kingston's bluestone, of regulations regarding its use and preservation in development projects, and its potential economic benefit to the community.
5. Support the Complete Streets walkability program and ensure that it ties into Bluestone sidewalk restoration and related initiatives, such as Live Well Kingston, access to public transportation, and development of hiking and bicycling trails.



Thank you!



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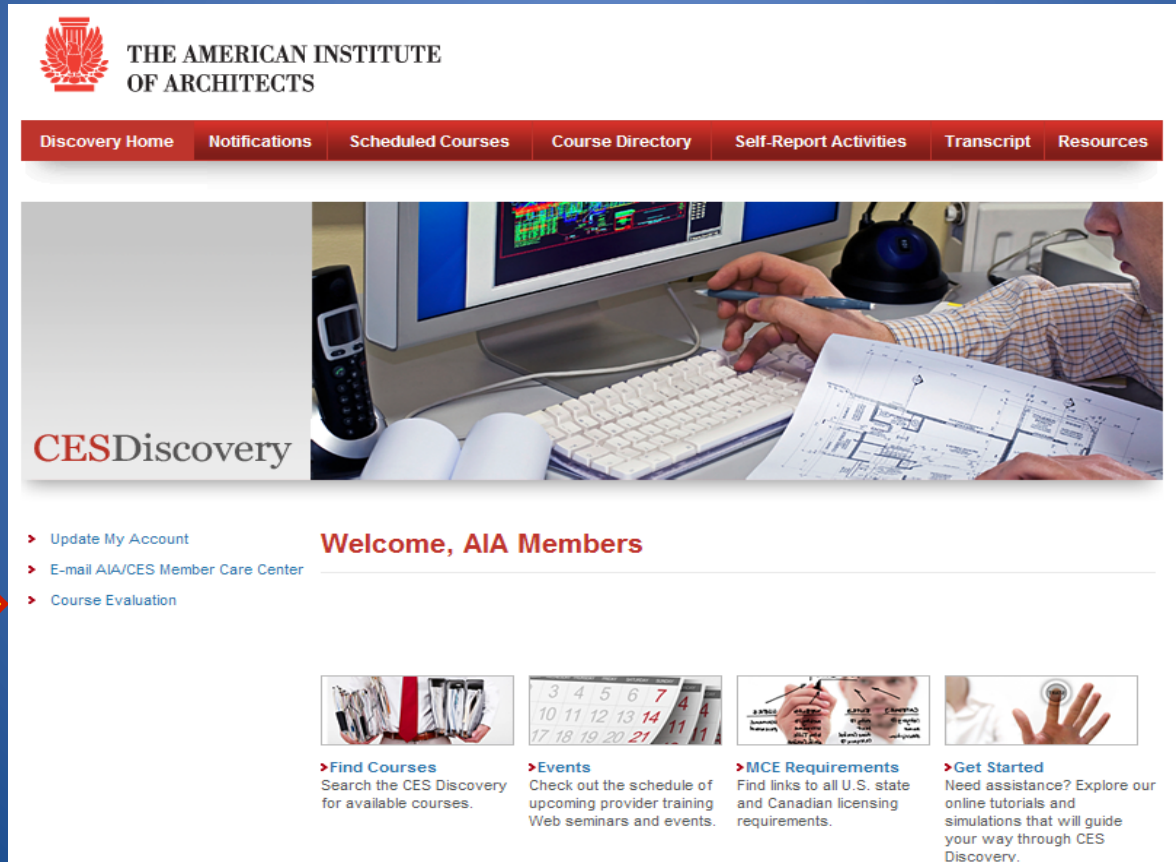
Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.


Learning Objectives

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QUESTIONS??

This concludes The American Institute of Architects
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